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DESCENDANTS

OF

ISRAEL BISSELL

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THE WESTERN RESERVE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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LAKEWOOD, OHIO

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PREFACE

In view of his notable service to his country in spreading the news of the Battles of Lexington and Concord from Watertown, Massachusetts to New York and Philadelphia, it seemed unfortunate that the subsequent history of Israel Bissell of East Windsor, Connecticut, should remain unknown. To establish the facts and trace the line in the Western Reserve has been the objective of this investigation.

There has been a misunderstanding concerning the ancestry of some of the Bissell's in Ohio. On page 948 of A Portrait and Biographical Record of Portage and Summit Counties, Ohio, published in 1898 by A. W. Bowen & Co., Logansport, Ind., is this statement:

"Benjamin Bissell was a soldier in the War of the Revolution, and died of camp dysentery in middle life. He had three sons, viz. Israel, Justus who settled in Aurora, Portage County, Ohio, where he died aged seventy years, and Robert; also four daughters, Eunice, Roxana, Prudence and Anna. Benjamin Bissell died in Massachusetts."

The statement that Benjamin was the father of these children the present writers have proved erroneous by finding the original administration papers of the Estate of Israel Bissell of East Windsor, Conn. which mention eight children including all those named above. It has been the object of this investigation to discover and present the history of the family of Israel Bissell, Sr. and to trace his descendants in Massachusetts and on to the Western Reserve in Ohio. The meager data in published works have been supplemented by the findings obtained by careful research among original records in Portage and Cuyahoga Counties, Ohio, as well as in Massachusetts and Connecticut.

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Wherever possible references are given for authorities quoted. A bibliography of books and records consulted is appended.

The Bissells like many another New England family followed the custom of naming a son after his father, even for several generations. To avoid any confusion which might result from the recurrence of the name Israel, in three consecutive generations, we have designated the Revolutionary post rider and messenger (#8) Israel Bissell, Jr. His son, (#15) who went to Ohio, being the third Israel, we have called Israel Bissell, 3rd.

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DESCENDANTS OF ISRAEL BISSELL

The Bissells in America are, for the most part, descendants of John Bissell, as were Israel Bissell, Sr., and his more famous son, Israel Bissell Jr., of East Windsor, Conn. (a)

JOHN BISSELL, born in England about 1592; died, Windsor, Conn. Oct. 3, 1677, aged 85; had a wife, name not stated who died at Windsor, May 21, 1641, presumably the mother of his children. He had a second wife, name also unknown, who died Mar. 29, 1665, a record erroneously attributed by some authorities to the wife of his son, John Jr. He was in Windsor by 1639, was ferryman, and had a long term of service as Deputy. (b)

JOHN BISSELL (John¹), b. Eng. lived in Windsor; d. New York in 1688; m. June 17, 1658, Isabel Mason, whose name has usually been stated as Isabel, and who was living as late as 1691, daughter of the celebrated Indian fighter, Capt. John Mason. This John Bissell was a soldier under Mason, and later Cornet (Lieutenant) of the Hartford County p. (See American Genealogist, 1950. Vol. 26, p. 84, 185; Vol. 27, p. 100)

JEREMIAH BISSELL (John², John¹) b. Windsor, Conn., June 22, 1677; m. Dec. 19, 1705, Deborah White, daughter of Lieut. Daniel and Sarah (Crow) White, and sister of Capt. Daniel White of Hatfield, Mass. Their eighth child was Israel. That Jeremiah had a son Israel, which some have doubted, is proved by a deed from Jeremiah Bissell to Israel Bissell, Jr., of land which "bounds east on my son Israel Bissell's land." (c)(d)(e)

FOURTH GENERATION

ISRAEL BISSELL (Jeremiah³, John², John¹) b. East Windsor, Conn. abt. 1720; d. 1776; m. Hannah [redacted], who was b. abt. 1726; d. Middlefield, Mass. May 30, 1799, age 73. [redacted] m. 2nd for his first wife, John Crane of Becket, Mass. (int) Sept. 10, 1788. According to tradition, Israel Bissell died of camp distemper in 1776 as the result of service in the Revolutionary War. This seems to be supported by the official record that Israel Bissell served in Capt. E. Wolcott's Military Company, July-Aug. 1776, though this record may refer to Israel Jr. (g)(h)

Israel Bissell died probably late in 1776 or early in 1777. The administration bond was signed on July 9, 1777 by Israel Bissell Jr. and Stephen Payne, the former being administrator. Joseph Talcott was the Judge of Probate for the District of Hartford. The report of Distribution of the Israel Bissell Estate was dated Sept. 5, 1778, and this is a document which gives the names of the members of the family. A photocopy of this interesting paper accompanies this writing. From this instrument we obtain the following information:

The widow was given her third.

Israel, the eldest son received a double share.

Justus was the second son.

Ann, the eldest daughter, had formerly received her full portion.

Eunice was the second daughter.

-) G.D.B. 8-9
-) G.D.B. p. 20.
-) H.H. p. 452.

- (d) H.G.A.W. p. 79
- (e) L-1
- (f) V.R.M. p. 117.

- (g) B.G.D.
- (h) H.G.A.W. p. 690.

Hannah was the third daughter; Prudence was the fourth daughter; Roxy was the fifth daughter; Robert was the youngest son, and being the last mentioned was, we judge, the youngest child. (a)

Israel Bissell, Sr. had apparently planned to move to Western Massachusetts for we find him possessed of land in Becket. His deed of sale of a part of this property to Andrew Kimball, dated Sept. 9, 1763, covered "all divisions of land already laid out in Township No. 4 Berkshire County upon the right No. 45, except the first Division of Land." Whether he ever lived there is not known, but the fact that in 1783 Widow Bissell married John Crane of Becket suggests such a possibility. (b)(c)

A deed of land in East Windsor, dated Aug. 9, 1781, sold by Israel Bissell, Justus Bissell, Jr. and Hannah Bissell to Jerijah Bissell, Jr. may indicate the approximate date of the breaking up of the homestead in Connecticut previous to the migration of most of the family to Middlefield, Mass. There was another Justus Bissell in that region, so that Justus, son of Israel, had to be designated "Junior" to distinguish him from the older man.

A list of the children of Israel and Hannah Bissell, all born in East Windsor, compiled from all records is as follows:

Children:

5. Anna, b. perhaps about 1746. She had probably married before her father's death, and did not go to Middlefield with the others. (Rev. Samuel Bissell mentioned Anna in his list of Israel's children: "Anna married Eli Ely." This is in error since Eli Ely married Anna (Nancy) Wheeler. (d))
6. Eunice, b. abt. 1748; d. Mid. Oct. 10, 1826, aged 78. (e)
7. Hannah, b. abt. 1750; d. Mid. July 27, 1807 in her 57th yr. m. Jonathan Ely and lived in Middlefield. (f)(g)
- * 8. Israel, b. abt. 1752. (See below)
9. Prudence, b. Oct. 31, 1757; d. Mid. Sept. 11, 1847; aged 89 y. 10 m. 11 d.; m. John Damon and lived in Middlefield. (h)(i)
- * 10. Justus, b. Feb. 16, 1759. (See below)
11. Roxana, b. abt. 1761; d. Mid. July 15, 1818, aged 57 yrs. (j)
- * 12. Robert, b. abt. 1770. (See below)

FIFTH GENERATION

8. ISRAEL BISSELL (Israel⁴, Jeremiah³, John², John¹) b. abt. 1752 in East Windsor, Conn.; d. Hinsdale, Mass. Oct. 24, 1823, age 71 years (k); m. Feb. 22, 1785, Lucy Hancock of Longmeadow, Mass. She was probably the Lucy who was the daughter of Daniel and Lucy (Long) Hancock of Longmeadow, b. Oct. 26, 1757 (l). She was living with her son, Israel in Hinsdale in 1830, and in Freedom, O. in 1840, but appears to have died before 1844.

Israel Bissell, Jr. by the age of twenty-three had become a post rider between Boston and New York, and acquired familiarity with roads and people along the route. Being an ardent patriot he was an

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| (a) W.E.W. No. 581 | (e) V.R.M. p. 112 | (i) H.M.M. p. 463 |
| (b) D.B.C. Vol. 4, p. 173 | (f) H.M.M. p. 471 | (j) V.R.M. p. 112; B.G.D. |
| (c) H.M.M. p. 413 | (g) I.E.F. | (k) V.R.M. |
| (d) V.R.M. p. 105 | (h) V.R.M. p. 117 | (l) V.R.L.; L.C. |

ideal person to spread important news, and was selected to carry the Lexington Alarm of April 19, 1775. Starting from Watertown, Mass. at 10 A.M. he rode at top speed to Worcester, where his horse fell dead as he neared the meeting-house at noon. With a new mount he went on to New London, Lyme, Saybrook, Guilford, New Haven, New York, New Brunswick, Princeton, Trenton, and arrived in Philadelphia four days after the start, having covered a distance of 350 miles.

This service of Bissell in alarming the patriots of the colonies has received some belated recognition in historical literature. In the N.E. Hist. and Gen. Register is published an account of the ride giving in full the orders given the messenger and the notations made on his copy by the officials in the various towns through which he passed. His name there is given as "Trail Bissell". This is evidently due to a misreading of the name in a copy of the original document. A facsimile of this copy was published in the Penn. Mag. of Hist. and Biog. and in this the name could be interpreted as "Trail." But since no record has been found of any person of that name, it appears that the old fashioned "s" with an "I" before it was mistaken for a "T" by those who made the existing copy. The late Abram Wakeman's article entitled "The Lexington Alarm" gives the name as Israel, as have more recent writers. (a)(b)(c)(d)

None of the writers of these articles, however, has stated whether the Israel Bissell concerned was Israel, Sr. or Israel, Jr. The weight of evidence appears to indicate the younger man. A vigorous young fellow of twenty-three would appear much more eligible for this service than his father who had reached the age of fifty-five, and whose constitution was unable to endure two months service in the patriot army. Stronger evidence may be in the fact that Israel Bissell, Jr. had actually served ten half days prior to June 20, 1775, for which he received five shillings pay from Capt. Stoughton, while his father did not serve until 1776, assuming that the record of service in Capt. Wolcott's Company applies to him. (e)

When the Revolutionary War at last was over, the members of the Israel Bissell family, like many other young people of that period, began looking for homes of their own where land was cheaper and population less crowded than in the Connecticut Valley. It appears that Israel Bissell, Jr. first purchased some land in Murrayfield, Mass. but finally settled in a neighboring section about 1783, on Lot #222, Worthington, a tract of land which was included in the newly incorporated town of Middlefield, where a large number of lots had been offered for speculation and settlement. This piece of land is still known as the "Bissell Lot" and was for many years a part of the Matthew Smith Farm. Here several if not all of Israel's children were born. His brothers, Justus and Robert, came about the same time and built a house within a quarter of a mile of Israel's dwelling. About five years later John Damon, who had married their sister, Prudence, made his home about a mile further south, while Jonathan Ely who had married another sister, Hannah, built his house in the extreme southern part of the township. All the children with the exception of Anna came to Middlefield, Eunice and Roxana dying there unmarried. Between 1810 and 1820 Israel Bissell moved from Middlefield to the nearby town of Hinsdale where he died and was buried in 1823. (f) In 1819 he bought land near the Dalton line and another tract in 1822. He probably

(a) N.G.R. vol. 27, p. 434
(b) P.H.B. vol. 27, p. 257
(c) T.L.A.

(d) M.H.Apr. 1929, p. 545
(e) S.R.H.
(f) H.M.L. p. 413

moved about 1819. (a)

(Note) The deed of 32 acres in Lot 222 by Ithamar Pelton to Israel Bissell, yeoman, and Justus Bissell, joiner, was signed Nov. 9, 1787, but was not recorded until Oct. 11, 1810. The Bissells may have come to Middlefield as friends of Pelton and lived on his land until they had earned enough to secure a deed. Coming from the same town it is possible that Justus Bissell was an apprentice to Pelton who was a master builder of wide experience in Chatham and East Windsor, Conn., and was probably anxious to give the young man and his relatives a fair start in the new town where he had settled a few years earlier.)

Who were the children of Israel Bissell, Jr. is a problem which has not yet been completely solved though the writers have made considerable progress. The Middlefield Vital Records give the names of three children of Israel and Lucy Bissell, Lucy, Orpha and Israel. The various United States Census Enumerations from 1790 to 1840, however, give evidence that there were others.(b)(c)

1790. Middlefield. Males over 16 years - one; males under 16 years - one; females - two. These figures account for Israel, Jr., his wife, his son, Israel 3rd and one daughter, either Lucy or Orpha but not both.

1800. Middlefield. Males over 16 years - one; males under 16 years - three; females - four. Here are included Israel, Jr. and Israel 3rd, but also two other boys, who might be sons born between 1790 and 1800. Among the four females would be Israel's wife, the girls Lucy and Orpha and perhaps another daughter.

1810. Middlefield. Males over 16 years - two; Males under 16 years - two; Females - three. Israel Jr. and Israel 3rd account for the men and two young sons for the boys; Israel's wife and two daughters would account for three females, but evidently either Lucy or Orpha was away from home.

1820. Hinsdale. Males 45 and up - one; 26 to 45 - one; 18 to 26 - one; 16 to 18 - one; Females 45 and up - one; 26 to 45 - one; 16 to 26 - one. Israel Jr. and Israel 3rd and a second son are here but the youngest male cannot be the same as the one enumerated in 1800, who would be twenty by this date. Israel's wife and two daughters are evidently listed, but one or both of the older daughters may have been away from home.

1830. Hinsdale. Males 40 to 50 - one; Females 70 to 80 - one; 40 to 50 - one; 30 to 40 - one. Israel 3rd is head of the household, his father having died in 1823. His mother was the woman 70 to 80, while the woman 40 to 50 may have been Israel 3rd's wife or Orpha who was living in Hinsdale in 1850. The woman 30 to 40 may have been a younger sister or Israel's wife.

1840. Freedom, O. Males 50 to 60 - one; 15 to 20 - one; Females 30 to 40 - one; 50 to 60 - one; 20 to 30 - one; 15 to 20 - one; 5 to 10 - one. Israel's mother has come to Ohio with him and his wife. There is an unknown half-grown boy. The younger women and girls may be either sisters, daughters or nieces of Israel 3rd.

With only three children of Israel Jr. accounted for in Middlefield Vital Records and none in Hinsdale we must look elsewhere for light on this puzzle.

Mrs. Fannie A. Bissell of Winterset, Ia. wrote to one of the authors as follows:

"All I know of the children of Israel is that of one son, Enos, who lived in Aurora at Grandfathers, was married and died in Solon, O. I think." (a)

From data collected by the late Clarence R. Bissell of Cleveland we learn:

"Israel also lived and died in Middlefield, married and had at least one son named Enos who came to Ohio early in life and lived and died here." (b)

This information Mr. Bissell put in the following form in a letter written in 1902:

"Israel also lived and died in Middlefield, Mass. He had at least one child Eneas, who came to Ohio sometime about 1815 or 1820." (c)

These data are confirmed by the U.S. Census enumerations which record Enos Bissell in Aurora, O. in 1830 with a large family, and in Solon, O. in 1840 with three sons and eight daughters. (d)

In Roselawn Cemetery, Solon, O. is the following inscription:

"In Memory of Enos Bissell
1795-1848" (e)

We may now with reasonable certainty add Enos to the list of the children of Israel Bissell Jr. Concerning the daughters the will of Israel Bissell 3rd throws the following light on the members of the family living at that time, February 20, 1844:

(4) I give to my beloved sister, Almira Spafford, one half of all my property, real and personal.

(5) I give to my deceased sister, Hannah Chamberlain's children the other half of my effects, real and personal." (f)

Our researches, while still incomplete, permit the compilation of the following list of children of Israel and Lucy (Hancock) Bissell;

Children:

13. Lucy, b. Mid. Jan. 6, 1786, (g) d. Hinsdale, Mar. 15, 1832, (h). She used to do weaving for the family of Matthew Smith.

14. Orpha, b. Mid. Jan. 21, 1788, (g) She was living in Hinsdale in 1850; Spencer Stewart, of Worthington, Mass. gave bond Sept. 1, 1863, to maintain Orpha Bissell during her life in consequence of her payment to him of \$800. She was living in the family of Talmadge Church in Middlefield in 1870. (i, j)

- * 15. Israel, b. Mid. Sept. 5, 1789, (g). (See below)
- * 16. Enos, b. 1795. (e) (See below)
- * 17. Hannah, b. _____. m. Albert Chamberlain. (See below)
- * 18. Almira, b. _____. m. Thomas Spafford. (See below)

(a) L-2	(d) U.S.C.	(h) V.R.H.
(b) B.G.D.	(e) R.C.I.	(i) D.H.C. vol. 215, p
(c) L-3	(f) W.P.C. vol. 1, p. 305	75.
(d) (2)	(g) V.R.M. p. 11	(j) D.H.C. vol. 226, p. 245

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(Note: There was a Eunice Bissell who died in Middlefield, Oct. 8, 1827, age 18 yrs. who might have been a child of Israel Jr. living away from the family in Hinsdale at the time. No record of her birth has been found. (a))

10. JUSTUS BISSELL, (Israel⁴, Jeremiah³, John², John¹) b. E. Windsor, Conn. Feb. 16, 1759; d. Aurora, O. Sept. 16, 1832; m. Dec. 20, 1779, Ann, dau. of Ebenezer and Ann (Barber) Blodgett, who was b. Mar. 2, 1760; d. Jan. 24, 1839. A few years after his marriage he moved his family to Middlefield, Mass. locating first in the northeast part of the town, on what is now called the "Barn Lot" of the Matthew Smith farm. Later he lived in the southwest part of the township, whence he moved in 1808 to Aurora, O. Still later he lived in Bainbridge, Geauga County, O. He was a carpenter. (b)

Children whose births were recorded in Middlefield;

19. Anna, b. E. Windsor, Conn. Nov. 18, 1780; m. Daniel Leach and lived in Middlefield. (c)
20. Justus, b. Aug. 12, 1782; m. 1st Nancy Hatch; m. 2nd Mercy Collins.
21. Ebenezer Blodgett, b. July 20, 1784; m. 1st Mary Root; m. 2nd Lucinda Hart; m. 3rd Angeline Collins; m. 4th Mrs. Fanny Parmelee.
22. Orris, b. May 28, 1787; m. Millicent Church.
23. Jonathan Barber, b. May 11, 1790; m. Eabel Riley.
24. Roxana, b. Mar. 4, 1793; m. Mr. Parish.
25. Eunice, b. Oct. 22, 1796, m. Tyler Smith.
26. Cephas, b. June 25, 1800; m. Isabel Crawford. (d)

Rev. R.T. Cross adds the following: (e)

27. Philena, m. Aaron Baldwin.
28. Elvira, m. Rev. Bascom.
29. Israel, died in infancy. (Probably the child listed in Mid. records as dying Apr. 28, 1799, age about 4 weeks. (f))

Justus Bissell

12. ROBERT BISSELL, (Israel⁴, Jeremiah³, John², John¹) was b. in E. Windsor about 1770; d. Aurora, O. Jan. 20, 1833, age 63. At the age of thirteen he came to Middlefield and lived for some years with his brother, Justus, until his marriage in Mar. 1796 to Thankful, dau. of Edward and Margaret (Dyer) Cheeseman of Braintree, Mass. He probably built the house on his farm in the southwest part of the township which was later known as the Deacon Gamwell place. It was pleasantly located on the eastern slope of the West Hill, not far from the dwelling of Mrs. Willis Graves. Bissell moved to Aurora, O. in 1806. (g)

Robert Bissell

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| (a) V.R.M. p. 112 | (d) H.S.C. p. 1041 | (g) H.M.M. p. 414 |
| (b) H.M.M. p. 414 | (e) H.G.T.O. p. 44, 222, 224. | |
| (c) H.M.M. p. 517 | (f) V.R.M. p. 112 | |

Children born in Middlefield: (a)

30. Samuel, b. Apr. 28, 1797; m. 1st Fanny P. Gaylord; m. 2nd Cynthia Sykes. Distinguished minister, educator and citizen, Twinsburg, O. (b)
31. Laura, . May 2, 1798. Unm.
32. Roswell, b. Oct. 7, 1799.
33. David, b. July 4, 1802; m. Amanda C. Loveland.
34. Bianca, b. Apr. 6, 1804. m. Ogden Spencer.

SIXTH GENERATION

15. ISRAEL BISSELL, (Israel⁵, Israel⁴, Jeremiah³, John², John¹)
b. Mid. Sept. 1, 1789; d. Freedom, O. Feb. 20, 1844; m. Priscilla . No issue. (c)(d)

He moved with the family from Middlefield where he was born to Hinsdale about 1819, and became the head of the family upon the death of his father in 1823. Their house in Hinsdale was west of the railroad on the highway to Pittsfield, where the cellar hole can still be seen. Some of the land in that region is still known by the name "Bissell Hill." Shortly after 1820 Isaac and Hannah went to Ohio. Lucy died in 1832. Probably about 1836 Israel Bissell 3rd, with his mother and wife and younger sister, Almira, moved to Portage County, Ohio, where he bought 59 acres of land in Lot 20 in Freedom Township from Asahel C. Hawley. In the deed which was dated Feb. 4, 1837, Bissell is described as "of Freedom". (e) In 1840 he bought parts of Lots 10 and 20 in Freedom of Dennis C. Day. (f)

In the will of Israel Bissell 3rd, dated Feb. 20, 1844, were the following provisions:

- (2) "I devise and bequeath to my dear wife her maintenance and support out of my property during her natural life.
- (3) I give to my dear mother her support and maintenance out of my property during her natural life." (g)

The bequests to Almira Spafford and to the children of Hannah Chamberlain have been mentioned above. When the estate was settled the records mention Widow Priscilla Bissell, for whom her income from the estate was inadequate for support, and more was allowed. (h) While her right of dower was mentioned in a deed of some of the property as late as 1850, no record had been found of Lucy Bissell, Israel's mother after the mention of her in his will. Israel was buried in Drakesburg Cemetery, where the inscription reads:

"Israel Bissell died Feb. 20, 1844, Age 54.
Erected by H. Ward" (i)

That Israel Bissell of Freedom, O. was the same as Israel Bissell 3rd of Hinsdale, Mass. appears substantiated by the satisfactory agreement of the dates and the confirmatory evidence from the census records in Freedom and Hinsdale respectively. We have little data concerning the identity of the members of Israel's household in Freedom in 1840. It seems probable, however, that some of Hannah Chamberlain's children may have been living there at that time.

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| (a) V.R.M. p.11 | (d) D.C.I. p. 11 | (g) W.P.C. vol.1, p.3053 |
| (b) H.G.T.O.p.44,222,224 | (e) D.P.C.vol.29,p.245 | (h) P.P.C. vol.10,p. 409 |
| (c) V.R.M. p. 11 | | (i) D.C.I. p. 11 |
| | (f) D.P.C.vol.38,p.283 | |

16. ENOS BISSELL (Israel⁵, Israel⁴, Jeremiah³, John², John¹) b. 1795; probably in Middlefield, Mass.; d. Solon, Ohio, after March 20 and before Oct. 3, 1843. (a) When eleven years old, Enos Bissell joined the family of his uncle, Robert Bissell, and moved to Aurora, Ohio. Evidence of this is given in a letter from Middlefield, dated Oct. 1, 1807, unsigned but evidently written by Jonathan Ely, addressed to "loving brother and sister", saying:

"tell Enos that his parents and brothers and sisters are well."(b)

This confirms the statement of Mrs. Fannie A. Bissell that Enos lived with Robert Bissell. It was perhaps a dozen years later that Enos came back east, for he was living in Hinsdale, Mass. according to the U.S. Census of 1820. But soon afterward he returned to Ohio, for he married there, Jan. 3, 1821, Corinthia Phelps, who was born in Granby, Conn. in 1800, and died in Bryan, O. in 1883. (c)(d)

Enos bought his first land in 1822, part of Lot 35 in Aurora Township, Portage County, and acquired other parcels adjoining in the years that followed. (e) In 1840 he moved to Cuyahoga County, O. Solon, where he settled on Lots 29 and 36, buying the former from Hopson Hurd and the latter from Daniel Giles. Here he lived until his death.

Corinthia Phelps was a prominent character in the early pioneer settlements in that part of Ohio. An orphan at an early age she came to Ohio, walking most of the way, to make her home with her grandfather, Judge Samuel Forward of Aurora. She was an expert tailoress and a skillful nurse. In a deed by which Christopher Jewett of Antioch, Ill. gave title to a part of Lot 16 and a part of Lot 36, in 1850, there are mentioned the eight daughters of Enos and Corinthia Bissell:

"Susan Bissell, Augusta Bissell, Angustette Bissell, Victoria Bissell, Arabell Bissell, Cordelia Bissell, Lovina wife of Henry Trowbridge, and Elizabeth, wife of Corrydon Chamberlain, (all children and heirs of said deceased) equal one eighth shares, subject to life dower of Corinthia Bissell, widow of said Enos."(f)

In another deed of 1843 we read:

"James Monroe Bissell to Lovina Bissell, Susan Bissell, Augusta Bissell, Angenett Bissell, Victoria Bissell, Arabella Bissell and Cordelia Bissell and Elizabeth Bissell Chamberlain - quit claim to rights to real and personal estate of Enos Bissell, deceased, the same being my undivided share as heir at law, and also undivided share of Sherman Bissell, assigned to me by said Sherman." (g) From these and other data the children of Enos and Corinthia (Phelps) Bissell are found to be the following:

- 18-A i. Cordelia, b. Nov. 6, 1821; d. Dec. 19, 1845. (j)
 - 18-B ii. James Monroe, b. May 20, 1823 at Aurora, O.; m. Oct. 6, 1844, Mary Derr of Solon, O. (h) They had a daughter, Alice, who probably died young. He d. in August, 1870. (j)
 22. iii. Sherman P., b. June 18, 1825, Aurora; d. April, 1901. m. Harriet (j)
 19. iv. Lavinia, b. Nov. 5, 1827, Aurora; d. in March, 1904. (j)
- C.C.C. Docket A, (a) D.P.C. Vol. 7, p. 548 (i) R.C.I.
 31173, p. 392 (f) D.C.C. Vol. 43, p. 107 (j) From Bissell
 See Page 16 (g) D.C.C. Vol. 44, p. 350 family Bible
 M.P.C. Vol. 1, p. 304 (h) M.C.C. Vol. 4, p. 257
 D.P.C. Vol. 7, p. 548

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16. ENOS BISSELL, (Israel⁵, Israel⁴, Jeremiah³, John², John¹) b. 1795, probably in Mid; d. Solon, O. after Mar. 20 and before Oct. 3, 1848. (a) He appears to be living in Hinsdale according to the census of 1820, but he must have moved to Ohio soon after for he married there on Jan. 3, 1821, Corinthia Phelps who was born in Granby, Conn. in 1800, and died in Bryan, O. in 1883. (b)(c) Enos at first made his home with his uncle, Robert Bissell, in Aurora, Portage County, O.* He bought his first land in 1822, part of Lot 39 in Aurora Township, and acquired other parcels adjoining in the years following. (d) In 1840 he moved to Solon in Cuyahoga County where he settled on lots 29 and 36, buying the former from Hopson Hurd and the latter from Daniel Giles. Here he lived until his death.

Corinthia Phelps was a prominent character in the early pioneer settlements in that part of Ohio. Left an orphan at an early age she came to Ohio, walking most of the way, to make her home with her grandfather, Judge Samuel Forward of Aurora. She was an expert tailor and a skillful nurse. In a deed by which Christopher Jewett of Antioch, Ill. gave title to a part of lot 16 and a part of lot 36 in 1850, there are mentioned the eight daughters of Enos and Corinthia Bissell:

"Susan Bissell, Augusta Bissell, Angenette Bissell, Victoria Bissell, Arabell Bissell, Cordelia Bissell, Lovinia, wife of Henry Trowbridge, and Elizabeth, wife of Gerridon Chamberlain, (all children and heirs of said deceased) each one eighth shares, subject to life dower of Corinthia Bissell, widow of said Enos." (e)

In another deed of 1848 we read:

"James Monroe Bissell to Lovina Bissell, Susan Bissell, Augusta Bissell, Angenett Bissell, Victoria Bissell, Arrabilla Bissell and Cordelia Bissell and Elizabeth Bissell Chamberlain... quit claim to rights to real and personal estate of Enos Bissell, deceased, the same being my undivided share as heir at law, and also undivided share of Sherman Bissell, assigned to me by said Sherman." (f) From these and other data the children of Enos and Corinthia (Phelps) Bissell are found to be the following:

Children:

18. James Monroe, b. May 20, 1823, Aurora, O. m. Oct. 6, 1844, Mary Derr of Solon, O. (g) They had a daughter, Alice, who probably died young. (h) James Monroe d. Aug. 18 70
- * 19. Lavinia, b. Nov. 5, 1827, Aurora; m. Henry Trowbridge. (See below)
20. Susan, b. Aurora Oct. 25, 1829; d. 1926, having attained the advanced age of 97 years. (i)
- * 21. Augusta, b. Jan. 15, 1832, Aurora; m. Philander Trowbridge. (See below)
22. Sherman P., b. June 19, 1825 Aurora; m. Harriet He died ap. 1901
23. Elizabeth, b. Aurora; m. Mar. 22, 1849, Coydon S. Chamberlain. (j) Oct 22 1830
- * 24. Victoria, b. Oct 22 1830, Aurora; m. Apr. 4, 1854, Edmund A. Richmond. (See below)

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| (a) C.C.C. Docket A. #1173, p. 382 | (e) D.C.C. vol. 48, p. 187 | (i) R.C.I. |
| (b) M.P.C. vol. 1, p. 304 | (f) D.C.C. vol. 44, p. 350 | (j) M.C.C. vol. 4, p. 536 |
| (c) P.W.W.R. p. 488 | (g) M.C.C. vol. 4, p. 257 | |
| (d) D.P.C. vol. 7, p. 548 | (h) R.C.I. | |

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19. iv. Livinia, (con.); m. Henry Trowbridge. (See below)
20. v. Susan, b. Aurora, Mar. 25, 1829; d. 1926. ae. 97. (a)
23. vi. Elizabeth, b. Aurora, Oct. 22, 1830; d. Feb. 1854;
m. Mar. 22, 1849, Coydon S. Chamberlain. (b)(c)
21. vii. Augusta, b. Jan. 15, 1832, Aurora; m. Philander Trow-
bridge. (See below.)
25. viii. Angenette T., b. July 13, 1834; d. June 23, 1902; m.
Mar. 23, 1858, Burr Fisher. Lived in Bryan, O. Had
two children, Earl and Lucyette, according to the
Census of 1870. At that date widow Corinthia Bis-
sell and Susan were living with the Fishers. (e)
24. ix. Victoria, b. Dec. 22, 1837, Aurora; m. Apr. 4, 1854,
Edmund A. Richmond. (See below)
26. x. Arabell, b. July 11, 1840; d. Mar. 26, 1921; m. Apr. 18,
1860, G. E. Needham. In this record she is called
Bell Bissell. (f)(c)
27. xi. Cordelia, b. Dec. 19, 1845; d. Mar. 29, 1908; m. June
2, 1870, Philetus Smith of Bryan, O. (c)(g)

One writer gives the following which in part confirms and in part conflicts with the above: "One daughter married Mr. Day of Mantua. Another is Mrs. Henry Trowbridge. And still another is Mrs. George Robertson, wife of a Cleveland editor." (h) The information about Mr. Day has not been confirmed by entries in marriage records searched. The connection of George Robertson is in error, as will be seen by referring to Gerogianna M. Trowbridge, No. 33, below.

17. HANNAH BISSELL (Israel⁵, Israel⁴, Jeremiah³, John², John¹) died before 1844; m. Sept. 13, 1826 in Portage Co. O., Albert A. Chamberlain. They were members of a class in the M.E. Church in Freedom, O. in 1834. (i) Children:

28. Portia, m. Jan. 25, 1840, Richardson Avery. (j) She was living Twinsburg, O. in 1847, when she gave a quit claim deed to her share of lots 10, 19, and 20 in Freedom, inherited from her uncle, Israel Bissell, to R.H. Miller. (k)
29. Minerva E., was living in Nelson, Portage Co. in 1847 when she deeded her inherited share of lots 10, 19 and 20 to Roger H. Miller. (l)
30. Emily A., was in Freedom in 1850 when she sold her inherited share of lots 10, 19 and 20 to Mr. Miller. (m)
31. Corinthia E., was living in Wellington, O. in 1852 when she sold her inherited interest in lots 10, 19 and 20 to Miller. (n)

18. ALMIVA BISSELL (Israel⁵, Israel⁴, Jeremiah³, John², John¹) m. Feb. 15, 1843, Thomas Spafford of Freedom, O. (o) They were living there in 1850. Both he and his wife were born in Massachusetts. A Thomas Spafford who d. Feb. 10, 1861, is buried in Drakesburg Cemetery, Freedom, O. (p)

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| (a) R.C.I. | (g) M.W.C. | (m) D.P.C. Vol. 53, p. 364 |
| (b) M.C.C. Vol. 4, p. 536 | (h) P.W.M.R. p. 488 | (n) D.P.C. Vol. 57, p. 539 |
| (c) From Bissell Family Bible. | (i) M.P.C. Vol. 1, p. 445 | (o) M.P.C. Vol. 2, p. 94 |
| (d) M.C.C. Vol. 9, p. 42 | (j) M.P.C. Vol. 2, p. 357 | (p) D.C.I. |
| (e) U.S.C. 1370. | (k) D.P.C. Vol. 48, p. 551 | |
| (f) M.C.C. Vol. 10, p. 36 | (l) D.P.C. Vol. 48, p. 552 | (q) T.G. |

SEVENTH GENERATION

19. LAVINIA BISSELL, dau. Enos, b. Nov. 5, 1827, Aurora, O.; d. Solon, March, 1904; m. Chagrin Falls, O. Dec. 14, 1849, Henry Trowbridge, son of John and Lydia (Russell) Trowbridge. He was a soldier in the Civil War. (q)

25. Angenette T., b. _____; m. Mar. 28, 1858, Burr Fisher. (a)
Lived in Bryan, O. Had two children, Earl and Lucyette,
according to the census of 1870. At that date Widow
Corinthia Bissell and Susan were living with the Fishers.
(b)
26. Arabella, b. _____; m. Apr. 18, 1860, G.E. Needham. (c)
(In this record she is called Bell Bissell.)
27. Cordelia, b. _____; m. June 2, 1870, Philetus Smith of
Bryan, O. (d)

One writer gives the following which in part confirms and in part conflicts with the above: One daughter married Mr. Day of Mantua. Another is Mrs. Henry Trowbridge. . . And still another is Mrs. George Robertson, wife of a Cleveland editor." (e) The information about Mr. Day has not been confirmed by entries in marriage records searched. The connection of George Robertson is in error, as will be seen by referring to Georgianna M. Trowbridge, No. 33, below.

16. HANNAH BISSELL (Israel⁵, Israel⁴, Jeremiah³, John², John¹)
b. _____; d. before 1844; m. Sept. 13, 1826 in Portage Co., O.
Albert A. Chamberlain. They were members of a class in the
M.E. Church in Freedom, O. in 1834. (f)

Children:

28. Portia L., b. _____; m. Jan. 25, 1843, Richardson Avery. (g)
She was living in Twinsburg, O. in 1847, when she gave
a quit claim deed to her share of lots 10, 19 and 20
in Freedom, inherited from her uncle, Israel Bissell,
to Roger H. Miller. (h)
29. Minerva L., b. _____; she was living in Nelson Township
Portage County, in 1847 when she deeded her inherited
share of lots 10, 19 and 20 to Roger H. Miller. (i)
30. Emily A., b. _____: was in Freedom in 1850 when she sold
her inherited share of lots 10, 19 and 20 to Miller. (j)
31. Corinthia E., b. _____: was living in Wellington, O. in
1852 when she sold her inherited interest in lots 10,
19 and 20 to Miller. (k)

17. ALMINA BISSELL (Israel⁵, Israel⁴, Jeremiah³, John², John¹)
b. _____ m. Feb. 15, 1843, Thomas Spafford of Freedom, O. (l)
They were living there in 1850. Both he and his wife were
born in Massachusetts. A Thomas Spafford who d. Feb. 10, 1861
is buried in Drakesburg Cemetery, Freedom, O. (m)

SEVENTH GENERATION

19. LAVINIA BISSELL (Enos⁶, Israel⁵, Israel⁴, Jeremiah³, John²,
John¹) b. Nov. 5, 1827, Aurora, O.; d. Aug. 12, 1903, Solon, O.
m. in Chagrin Falls, O. Dec. 14, 1849, Henry Trowbridge, son
of John and Lydia (Russell) Trowbridge. He was a soldier in
the Civil War. (n)

- | | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| (a) M.C.C. vol. 9, p. 42 | (f) M.P.C. Vol. 1, p. 445 | (k) D.P.C. vol. 57, p. 539 |
| (b) U.S.C. 1870. | (g) M.P.C. vol. 2, p. 357 | (l) M.P.C. vol. 2, p. 94 |
| (c) M.C.C. vol. 10, p. 36 | (h) D.P.C. vol. 48, p. 551 | (m) D.C.I. |
| (d) M.W.C. | (i) D.P.C. vol. 48, p. 552 | (n) T.G. |
| (e) P.W.W.R. P. 483 | (j) D.P.C. vol. 53, p. 364 | |

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Children:

32. Darwin, b. 1851; 1852. (a)
33. Georgianna Marcia, b. Aug. 2, 1852. (See below)
34. May Estelle, b. Sept. 14, 1857; d. 1923.
35. Elmer Elsworth, b. May 27, 1863, Solon, O. m. Cora Belle Phillips
Lives in Oakland, Cal. Son, George P. (b)

1. AUGUSTA BISSELL, (Enos⁶, Israel⁵, Israel⁴, Jeremiah³, John², John¹)
b. Jan. 15, 1832, Aurora, O.; m. at Solon, O. Sept. 12, 1852,
Philander Dawley Trowbridge. They lived in Holtville, Cal.

Children:

36. Granville Sherwood, b. Sept. 9, 1853; m. Laura H. Fogg.
37. Alena Gertrude, b. Oct. 22, 1854; m. Marcellus Sargent.
38. Lillie Bell, b. Sept. 27, 1865; m. Philip H. Ausman.
39. John Bissell, b. July 3, 1868; m. Cynthelia W. Perry, dau. of
Oliver Hazzard Perry. Child, Margaret W.
40. Elbert Philander, b. Oct. 22, 1875; m. Roxana D. Perry.
He was a soldier in the Spanish-American War. (b)

4. VICTORIA BISSELL (Enos⁶, Israel⁵, Israel⁴, Jeremiah³, John², John¹)
b. _____, m. Apr. 4, 1854, Edmund Alvin Richmond, son of Edmund Jr.
and Olive M. (Parish) Richmond of Worthington, Mass. He was a so-
dier in the Civil War, and died in a hospital at Matagorda, Texas, in
1864. Lived in Ligonier, Ind. (c)

Children:

41. Lelia, b. June 6, 1855; d. Mar. 8, 1861.
42. Jessie, b. Apr. 13, 1862; m. Mr. Russell. Living in Cincinnati
Ohio in 1896. (d)

3. GEORGIANNA MARCIA TROWBRIDGE, b. August 2, 1852; m. George A. Robert-
son, and lived in Cleveland, O. where he was editor of the Clevel-
land Daily Record, and a widely known political leader.

Child:

43. Carl Trowbridge Robertson, b. 1876. (e)

3. CARL TROWBRIDGE ROBERTSON, was born in North Bloomfield, O., in
1876. He was graduated from Cleveland Central High School in the
Class of 1894, and from Harvard University in 1898. Having achie-
d honors in chemistry as well as in Semitic languages, he served one ye-
s instructor in chemistry in the Harvard Graduate School. In 1912 he m-
azie Bushea from whom he was divorced in 1924. They had a daughter, Ja-
o, 1915. He m. 2nd. in 1924 Josephine Wuebben, a member of the staff of
the Plain Dealer. They had one son, Donald.

Mr. Robertson joined the staff of the Cleveland Plain Dealer in 190
going straight up through the ranks from reporter to editorial writer.
as at one time a combined Court House, City Hall and political writer,
strong supporter and friend of the late Tom L. Johnson, once Mayor of
Cleveland. For twenty years he wrote his paper's editorials on foreign
affairs, and honors came his way. He was strongly pro-Ally during the
World War. An ardent nature student, he conducted a nature column which
had a tremendous following. He was an expert bridge player, an historia-
f medieval history, author of travelogs, and an explorer of caves and
lava beds. A lover of travel, he went to many places which the ordinary
tourist never visits. He was a member of the famous Blossom Expedition

- a) R.C.I. (b) T.G. (c) M.C.C. vol. 5, p. 475.
d) R.F. p. 275. (e) C.P.D. June 4, 1935

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Cruise organized by the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, at the end of 1923, in the course of which he made valuable explorations in the Cape Verde Islands. He also penetrated to a section of Mammoth Cave theretofore not known to exist, which was later given his name. Mr. Robertson died suddenly in June, 1935, at Rabat, Morocco, while traveling with his wife on their last journey abroad.

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Abbreviations employed in the text.

b. - born	E. Windsor - East Windsor, Conn.	Yrs. - year
d. - died	Mid. - Middlefield, Mass.	(Int) - Intention of marriage.
m. - married	abt. - about	
dau. - daughter		

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APPENDIX TO
DESCENDANTS OF ISRAEL BISSELL

MAJOR GORDON'S ORDER
April 20, 1775

On page 5 the story of Israel Bissell's ride was briefly told, and attention was called to the name "Trail Bissell" being found in one copy of the original order. In this connection the accompanying photostat copy of a military order issued at Voluntown, Conn. is of interest.

In the Adjutant General's Office in the War Department, Washington D.C. (File 31897) is this copy of instructions of the Committee of Safety at Watertown, Mass. concerning Israel Bissell's ride, incorporated in military orders from Major James Gordon to Captain John Gordon, Jr. both of Voluntown, to assemble the company and prepare to march to Lexington and Concord on the Alarm of April 20, 1775. On the back of this order sheet is the record:

"I have sent to Ens. Edmond to sent out Sargnt Edmond to warn the men and to send word to the Int. &c."

In addition to the interesting information it contains this document is of value as it identifies Israel Bissell as the messenger and removes any question about the mythical "Trail Bissell" previously mentioned.

E.C.S. P.M.S.

November 1, 1932

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Exhibited 5 Sept. 1778. Joseph Talcott, Judge of Probate for the District of Hartford, Connecticut.

"We the Subscribers pursuant to the orders of this Honorable Court being under Oath appointed Distributors of the Estate of Israel Bissell late of East Windsor Deceased have proceeded as follows; viz: We Set out to the Widow for her thirds of the Buildings the South Dwelling Room of the House with the Chamber over it, and Likewise the bed Room at the Southeast Corner of Said House and Likewise the privilege of a Buttery or Bofat in the Entry way & Likewise one third of the Cellar under said House with the privilege of passing and Repassing into the cellar: Likewise the use of the oven in the kitchen. Likewise one third part of the Barn at the Southwest Corner half the width of said Barn extending east to the east Side of the floor. Likewise set out to the widow one feather Bed and under bed with Bolster pillows and pillow Cases & Cord and Covering Sufficient to furnish a bed Likewise one Iron pot & one Iron Kettle. also one puter platter & three puter Basons & one puter cup and four Spoons. Said movables we Set out to the said widow Hannah to be her own forever, being all the movables that remain after the debts & Charges are paid. We Likewise Set out to the widow for her thirds of the Land twelve Acres on which the said House and Barn Stands Bounds as follows west on a way north by Land Belonging to John Louis East by Simeon Barbers Land and said John Louis his Land south by Land Belonging to Capt. Sam^l Stoughton. We Set out to Israel the Eldest Son as a Double Share Twenty Rods in width on the north Side of Said farm Boundin west on a High way which runs across Said farm and north by John Louis his Land East by Lands of Simeon Barbers. Likewise we Set out to Said Israel West of Said High way the North Side of Said farm Twenty Two Rods in width Bounding East on Said High way & Extending west to the west Line of Said farm. Likewise we Set out to Said Israel the north half of the Dwelling House & the north half of the Barn.

Next we Set out to Justus the Second Son all the Land South of Said Israels part to the South Line of Said farm Extending East and west from the west Line of Said farm to John Louis and Simeon Barbers Land. Likewise we Set out to Said Justus the South half of the Dwelling House and the South half of the Barn. Next we find that Anne the Eldest Daughter has formerly Recivd her full portion. Next we Set out to Eunice the Second Daughter four acres of Land at the East part of Said farm on the South Side Bounding East by a hey way west by Simeon Barbers Land. Next we Set out to Hannah the third Daughter four acres of Land Bounding South by Eunices Land East by a hey way west by Said Barbers Land. Next we Set out to Prudence the forth Daughter four Acres of Land Bounded South by Said Hannahs Land east by the hey way west by Simeon Barbers Land. Next we Set out to Roxys the fifth Daughter Eight Acres Bounding South by Said prudences Land and Simeon Barbers East by the hey way west by Said Barbers Land. Next we Set out to Robert the youngest Son Ten Acres of Land Bounded South by Said Roxys Land east by hey way west and North by Simeon Barbers Land.

Elishama Crane
Henry Wolcott

APPENDIX TO

DESCENDANTS OF ISRAEL BISSELL

Since the writing of the preceding pages of this investigation the Western Reserve Historical Society has received from Mr. Fred L. Bissell of Eugene, Oregon, a collection of letters and papers which once belonged to the late Rev. Samuel Bissell of Twinsburg, O. Among these, however, are several letters written to Robert Bissell (#12) at Aurora, O. some of which throw light upon the lives of the descendants of Israel Bissell.

#33. An unsigned letter, dated Oct. 1, 1807, addressed to "Loving brother and Sister." It tells of the death of my wife who died July 27 . . . of mum-palsy." This letter was evidently written by Jonathan Ela of Middlefield, Mass. the date of whose wife's death is confirmed by the Mid. Vital Records, p. 118. This letter contains the following:

"tel Enos that his parents and Brothers and sisters are well but his mother and she is able to be about and she does some work she has got better than she has been she is at my house to night and three of her children."

From this we know that Enos Bissell (#16. See page 10) was in Ohio with Robert Bissell as early as Oct. 1807. Hence it appears probable that Enos accompanied his uncle to Aurora in 1806. This confirms the evidence given by Mrs. Fannie A. Bissell (see page 7) that Enos lived with Robert Bissell.

#31. Letter from Justus Bissell to Rhobard Bissell, Aurora, O. dated Middlefield, Oct. 2, 1807. Reported that nearly all of the family was suffering from "this great cold that goes about among us." . . . "Your sister Ealy is dead and gone the way of all the earth. . . She died the July 27." . . . "Brother Israel and family is in helth as usual." . . . "Season very weat and Backard that some didnt git Don moing till the middle of September." . . . "We haint none of us coming out this fall."

Justus Bissell was evidently planning to follow Robert to Ohio for the next letter mentions selling his farm.

#25. Letter from Justus Bissell to Robert Bissell, Aurora, O. dated Middlefield, May 11, 1808. Marked Hinsdale, May 16, 1808.

"...I got home well But a Long time on the Roade of twenty-five days it cost me forty Dollars in Cash. I have settled with Mr. Converse and I have sold my farm. But the deed that I gave to Mother the Hirs must give a quitence for our wrighting cant be Changed till you have sinded and acknolaged the quit claim Deed and put it in a Letter and put it into the post Offic as quick as you Can for I Cant Come out till that Deed Comes Back and if you dont Do it it will Be a great Damage. The deed is to Seath partridge I cant set out to come heare till the middle of September next. . . . Brother Ely is married to Huldly Hach and it appears they are in a good agreement with the hole family. . . Besides sickness we have a very horrid Spring at the tenth of May the feed is good. I haint time to wright no more."

#32. Letter from Samuel Bissell to Robert Bissell, Aurora, O. dated Middlefield, Oct. 5, 1820. He was spending a six weeks vacation there. Reported all well except Uncle Damon; very low on the 18th. Mentions the sudden death of Miss Acsy White who taught in the center district. "I have spent my whole time as yet visiting; the people appear extremely gratified and many bid me welcome to stay as long as I please. Uncle Abel now lives in Becket. He with his wife spent last Sabbath here. I had a most agreeable visit with them at Amasa Blushes."

We received from Mr. Fred Bissell one of Robert Bissell's papers from which we obtained the photostat copy of his signature. This note reads in part as follows:

"Mr. Smith Sir I have sent you 1652 pounds of Shoger there is Betwen two and three hundred in Cakes the Rest is Stured - I expect you will take the hole of the Shoger as we a Greed at fifteen Sent par lb. which will be \$247;70 Dolars and Seventy Sents I Should have Come out my self with the Shoger But my famaly Being Sick I could not Come So I Remain yours

Robert Bissell

Aurora May 18th 1813".

E.C.S.

November 21, 1933

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was joined by Dawes at Lexington, and shortly after they set out together with Dr. Samuel Prescott, of Concord.'

"In short, the three were captured by the British regulars, a few miles beyond Lexington, in Lincoln. Prescott escaped and carried the news to Concord. Dawes and Revere were taken back to Lexington and there their ride ended. Windsor, the historian, says the poet, 'paid little attention to exactness of fact.'

"But it certainly was a great ride that Dawes and Revere took that night before, and then came the events of the morning!

"The day's work had hardly begun. While the battle was still in progress, the Committee of Safety, in session at Watertown, issued the following "Call to Arms," the original of which is in the collection of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania and was published in the Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography in 1903.

'Wednesday morning, near 10 of the clock, Watertown.

'To all friends of American Liberty: Be it known that this morning, before break of day, a brigade, consisting of about 1,000 or 1,200 men, landed at Phips farm at Cambridge and marched to Lexington, where they found a company of our Colony Militia in arms, upon whom they fired without any provocation, and killed 6 men and wounded 4 others. By an express from Boston we find another Brigade are now upon their march from Boston, supposed to be about 1,000. The bearer, Israel Bissel, is charged to alarm the country quite to Connecticut, and all persons are desired to furnish him with fresh horses, as they may be needed. I have spoken with several who have seen the dead and wounded. Pray let the delegates from this Colony to Connecticut see this. They know Foster, of Brookfield, one of the Delegates.

(Signed) PALMER,

'One of the Comy. of S. (afct) Y.'

"And right here is where our neighbor, Israel Bissel, of East Windsor, comes into our story. He was an enthusiastic patriot, a post rider between Boston and New York, and, of course, familiar with the roads and the people along the route. This made him an ideal person to carry this important news 'with certainty and celerity,' and the sequel shows that he was well chosen for that purpose. Leaving Watertown while the battle was yet in progress, at 'near 10 o'clock,' as the record says, he reached Worcester before noon, an almost incredibly short time for a horseback ride of about 30 miles.

"Says the History of Worcester County, Mass.: 'Before noon the 19th of April, a horseman, dusty and weary with hard riding, galloped through the town, shouting "To Arms! To Arms!! the War has begun!!!" His white horse, bloody with spurring and spent with fatigue, fell dead near the meeting house. Thus came to Worcester the news of the affair at Concord, the first encounter of the war, whose issue was to be the independence of the United States. The alarm rang out from the meeting-house bell, and the long cannon, which in the infancy of the town had given warning from the blockhouse north of Adams Square of the approach of the savage enemies, now from the ridge back of the courthouse roared from its iron throat a call of the people to arms and defiance to King and Parliament.'

"It was the shouts of Bissel as he passed through the villages and cities, the rushing hither and thither by night and by day to find members of the local committees, that fanned the spark to a flame of patriotism, hurried the Minute Men to Concord and Lexington, and changed a defeat to a glorious victory. Never in

THE MINUTE MAN

history has a trust been more faithfully carried out nor a hero as soon forgotten.

"At Worcester there was a delay while the message was copied and the committee had signed it, adding their evidence as to its authenticity. This was done at each time as it was passed along. The endorsement at Worcester read:

A True Copy taken from the Original, per order of the Committee of Correspondence for Worcester, April 19, 1775, att. Nath. Baldwin, Town Clerk,

and successive committees followed practically the same form. He arrived at Pomfret on the morning of the 20th, and doubtless was the source of the intelligence which reached Israel Putnam as he was ploughing in the field with his son, Daniel, then a boy of 16. As Daniel wrote afterwards—

'He loitered not, but left me, the driver of his team, to unyoke it in the furrow.'

Putnam started at once for the seat of hostilities, riding near a hundred miles before the following morning. ~~There was some rider, too.~~ REPRODUCED BY THE WESTERN RESERVE HISTORICAL SOCIETY 10825 EAST BLVD. CLEVELAND OHIO 44106

"Delayed at Brooklyn, Bisset did not get to Norwich till 4 p. m. and to New London at 7. He passed on, to Lyme at 1 a. m., Saybrook at 4, Killingworth at 7, East Guilford at 8, Guilford at 10, Branford at nearly noon, where a company left at once for Lexington.

"Early in the afternoon he arrived at New Haven, having ridden from Lyme, nearly 40 miles, in the remarkable time of 12 hours" (autoists please note!), "including stops at the various towns along the route. Here that impetuous man, Benedict Arnold, Captain of the Governor's Guard, called his company together on the Green and proposed to lead them to Boston at once, and when the selectmen refused to supply them with ammunition, he threatened to break into the magazine. That settled the matter, and the ammunition was furnished and the company left for Cambridge.

"Our 'rough rider' stayed overnight at New Haven, leaving early Saturday morning, and arriving at Fairfield about 4 p. m. Forty men left Fairfield at once. Passing through Saugatuck, Norwalk, Stamford, Horse Neck, Rye and New Rochelle, he crossed Kings Bridge and down the Bloomingdale Road to Wall Street, arriving at the Merchants Coffee House Sunday noon, another good day's ride, the driving distance being given at that date as 63 miles.

"The chairman of the Committee of Correspondence, Isaac Low, was at once located and reported to. The greatest excitement ensued, and the whole city became a scene of riot, tumult and confusion, and as we are told by a Tory historian, 'the posts were stopped, the mails opened, and letters read, and the rebel faction committed all kinds of enormities especially upon the persons and property of the loyalists. The rioters seized upon a sloop laden with provisions for Boston, unloaded her and cast the cargo into the dock. On the same evening the same set of fellows broke open the arsenal in the city hall, took away a large amount of arms, and delivered them to the rebels to be used as the demagogues of rebellion should direct.

"Troops were enlisted for the rebellion, the loyalists threatened with the gallows, and the property of the Crown plundered wherever it could be found. A commissioned officer in the New York militia, prominently connected with Kings College, took an active part in these treasonable proceedings."

April, 1929

OFFICIAL BULLETIN, NATIONAL SOCIETY, S. A. R.

545

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Connecticut's Paul Revere—Israel Bissel

In this month of April it is natural we should be reminded of "the famous ride," and we love to read and speak the equally famous poem, and with its swing and rhythm allow our imaginations to be carried over the route and hear "the tramp of his steed as he rides."

We know, too, that Paul Revere was not the only messenger that carried the "midnight message," and we often have brought to our attention a slightly less well-known poem reciting the equally effective and hazardous ride of William Dawes, ancestor of the Vice-President, and attributing his lack of poetical fame as compared to that of Paul Revere to the fact that the less picturesque name was not so good for rhyming purposes.

Our good compatriot, Mr. F. Clarence Bissell, of Hartford, Connecticut, Registrar of the Connecticut State Society, S. A. R., in an interesting paper recently before the Jeremiah Wadsworth Chapter of Hartford, told the story of still another patriot, of his own name and lineage, Israel Bissell of Windsor, who deserves recognition and credit for his strenuous part in this splendid rousing of the Middlesex towns and countryside that night.

Mr. Bissell's story, as published in *The Hartford Plain*, reads as follows:

We must not "let our admiration for poetry run away with our sincere appreciation of the facts. Says a modern writer:

"Longfellow's stirring verses must bear most of the blame for obscuring the true story of how the Middlesex towns were roused that night. Possibly he knew the facts and felt justified in taking some poetic license, but it is more probable that he was unacquainted with them (the poem not being written till eighty years after the occurrence), as most Americans still are. One gathers from the poem that the rousing of the countryside was a one-man exploit. As a matter of fact, Dr. Warren had dispatched William Dawes (an ancestor, by the way, of the Vice-President) before Revere reached his house. Dawes was to take the land route by way of Roxbury and was under way before Revere had reached Charlestown. Revere never came to the bridge in Concord Town. He

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OFFICIAL BULLETIN, NATIONAL SOCIETY, S. A. R. 549
APRIL, 1929

"We must recollect that this is a description of the state of affairs by a Tory historian who, without doubt, could not be accused of impartiality in his description of the situation. The lieutenant governor summoned His Majesty's council to meet at once, and desired the attendance of the judges, the Attorney General, the city officials and the field officers of the militia, and requested their advice in this critical condition of affairs.

"The judge of the Supreme Court proposed that the militia should be called out, the riot act read, the leaders seized and imprisoned, and peace secured by these drastic measures. One of the council opposed this, as the ferment was too general and practically covered the entire population. He thought that the excitement would subside, as soon as the British Government had redressed the wrongs under which the populace fancied they were suffering, and advised to let them act as they pleased. No one replied to this, and the council broke up without taking any action whatever. From this description of affairs we can judge of the excitement our 'rough rider's' arrival caused in New York. Sunday afternoon, at 4.30, Bissel left New York for Philadelphia, bearing the official message endorsed 'New York, April 23, 4 p. m.:

"Received the within account by express and forwarded by express to New Brunswick, with directions to stop at Elizabeth town, and acquaint the committee there with the following particulars. By order of the Committee. ISAAC LOWE, Chairman.

"The *Pennsylvania Gazette* of April 26, 1775, informed its readers that—
"on Monday evening last, an express arrived here, from New York, by whom we have the following advices.

"Here followed the message received from Watertown, with the various endorsements of the committees in the towns as this messenger galloped through.

"Our 'rough rider' went at once to the city hall and delivered his message to the Committee, and in pursuance of a public notice given by them there was a meeting of said to be near 8,000 of the inhabitants of the city to consider of the measures to be pursued in this critical situation of the affairs of the Colonies.

"The stage-coach time between Boston and New York was from six to nine days, according to the season of the year, but the time of our 'rough rider' from Watertown to Philadelphia, including stops, was only about five days. This seems almost impossible, but the official endorsements upon the message confirm it. As I said before, the original is in the collection of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania and was printed in the *Pennsylvania magazine of history and biography* in an issue in 1903.

"Our hero was descended from John Bissel, of Windsor, the first of the name in America, and was born in East Windsor in 1752, removing to Middlefield, Mass., in 1784, soon after his marriage with Lucy Hancock, of Longmeadow, and later to Hinsdals, an adjoining town. He died there, and a gravestone is in a good state of preservation in the Maple Street Cemetery in that country town. It is a two-inch slab of marble without additional base stone, and has the following inscription:

IN MEMORY OF MR. ISRAEL BISSEL,

Who died October the 24th, 1823,

Aged seventy-one years."

into the magazine and was finally furnished with powder and lead.

The post rider galloped out of New Haven on Saturday morning, refreshed with his first real rest since he had begun his journey, and arrived at Fairfield about 4 P. M. Halting only until his message was copied he sped on through Saugatuck, Norwalk, Stamford, Horse Neck, Rye, New Rochelle; crossed King's Bridge and galloped down the Bloomingdale road to the Merchants' Coffee House on Wall Street, New York, where he arrived about noon on Sunday. After locating Isaac Low, chairman of the Committee on Correspondence, and having his message copied, the rider set out on the road to Philadelphia, bearing the official message indorsed "New York, April 23, 4 P. M."

Arriving at Philadelphia in a remarkably short time, considering the condition of the road in that early spring weather, Bissell went at once to the City Hall and delivered his message to the committee. Then his task was done.

Moved to Hinsdale

Israel Bissell was descended from John Bissell of Windsor, Conn., the first of the name to come to America. Israel was born at East Windsor, Conn., in 1752. Shortly after his memorable ride, his family moved to Middlefield, where, on August 30, 1784, he declared his marriage intentions to Lucy Handcock of Longmeadow. In Middlefield three children were born to the couple: Lucy in 1786, Orpha in 1788 and Israel, Jr., in 1789. Some time later the family moved to Hinsdale. The old road map of Hinsdale shows a road built in 1805 from Plunkett Reservoir to the Old Pittsfield turnpike to accommodate the families of Daniel Brown, William Burnham, Amasa Frost and Israel Bissell. At

the corner where the new road joined the turnpike lived Levi Loveland in the house now occupied by Samuel Rudin.

Cellar Hole Remains

On the site of the Bissell homestead, now owned by Michael Conley, nothing remains but the cellar holes of house and barn; and the old well that has been filled up to protect wandering cattle. John Field, 70, who has lived all his life on the farm nearby, once occupied by Daniel Brown, remembers the Bissell house. The hill at the top of which it stood is still called Bissell Hill by old residents. The last of the old timbers that formed part of the buildings was used by Mr. Conley, the present owner, to build a shop near his own farm buildings on the Washington road.

The facts concerning this great event in the life of Israel Bissell have been cherished by his descendants and are now in possession of F. Clarence Bissell of Hartford, Conn.

Simple Headstone

In the old part of Maple Street Cemetery Bissell lies buried beneath a weathered stone slab which bears the inscription, "In Memory of Mr. Israel Bissell, who died October the 24th, 1823, aged seventy-one years." That is all. No monument, no bronze tablet, not even a marker and flag to mark him as a veteran of the Revolution. The man who, by his memorable but forgotten ride probably did as much as any one man to bring about the freedom of the Colonies, lies forgotten. While politicians prate of patriotism and the masses know not the meaning of the word, one of the greatest patriots of them all sleeps the sleep of the brave in the restful quiet of Hinsdale's beautiful little cemetery. To the old inscription on his tombstone should at least be added the words: He served his country.

Israel Bissell Carried Call to Arms From Bay State to Philadelphia

**Settled in Hinsdale, Where Grave Today Is
Marked by Simple Tombstone — Was
Common Post Rider Between Boston
and New York—Furnished Fresh Horses
on Route.**

HINSDALE, May 7.—Though Hinsdale has known and bred more than a few whose names have been inscribed in the exclusive register of the immortals, there is one whom the town may claim unchallenged as its own; one whose only tangible memorial in the Berkshire Hills that were his home is a storm-smoothed headstone, standing lost among a hundred others. No orator speaks of him with bated breath; no laureate is inspired to lyrics at the mention of his name. Israel Bissell, the man who outrode Paul Revere, lies unheralded beneath the soil whose freedom he helped gain.

Who was Bissell?

Who was this Bissell? He was a man and he did a man's job. A patriot, if you please, though without the thirst for glory which often motivate modern patriotism. A man, that is all, but what higher eulogy could be said over him? A common post-rider between Boston and New York. In this capacity he left Watertown on the memorable morning of the nineteenth of April, Seventy-Five, bearing the official "Call to Arms," to spread word of the immediate need of quick preparedness. There was no time for watchful waiting. The British had opened a war at Lexington that morning and had been answered by the "shot heard 'round the world." There was no time to hesitate. "Carry on" was the word. And Bissell did.

Starts His Ride

While Bissell awaited the document which was being prepared by the Committee of Safety at Watertown, he probably took time to fortify himself against the trip with a good hot breakfast in a nearby coffee-house, chatting with the proprietor and other customers on the one topic of conversation that day. At last the paper was finished hastily signed, and thrust into Bissell's hands with the "God speed you" of the commissioners. The horse kicked up a cloud of dust and the ride was on.

Original Call Preserved

Let us inspect this important bit of paper which our courier bears, inscribed that all may read. The "Call to Arms" is still preserved in the collection of the Pennsylvania Historical Society and bears this message:

Tombstone of Man Who Outrode Famous Patriot



Stone slab over grave of Israel Bissell in Hinsdale

"Wednesday morning near 10 o'clock, Watertown.

"To all friends of American liberty, be it known that this morning before the break of day a brigade

consisting of about 1000 or 1200 men landed at Phips farm at Cambridge and marching to Lexington, where they found a company of our Colony militia in arms, upon which they fired without any provocation, and killed six men and wounded four others. By an express from Boston, we find another brigade is now upon their march from Boston, supposed to be about 1000. The bearer, Israel Bissell, is charged to alarm the country quite to Connecticut and all persons are desired to furnish him with fresh horses, as they may be needed. I have already spoken with several who have seen the dead and wounded. Pray let the delegates from this colony to Connecticut see this.

"(Signed) Palmer, one of the Committee of Safety."

Leaving Watertown about 10 o'clock, the dispatch bearer put his horse into a gallop and was off to spread the news while the guns were still firing, the British stubbornly fighting as they retreated towards Boston, driven by the "embattled farmers" whose homes and loved ones they threatened. Just before Bissell galloped through Worcester with his cry of "To arms! To arms! The war begun!" The alarm rang out from the meeting house steeple and preparations for defense were begun.

At each town the rider paused to have his message copied and the original signed by the local committee of safety. On through the day and the night he rode, wearing down horses and exchanging them for fresh ones, with never a second's rest himself.

Putnam Gets News

Bissell arrived at Pomfret on the morning of the next day, April 20, and word of the battle was carried to Israel Putnam as he was plowing in the field with his son Daniel. Putnam, that seasoned campaigner of the French and Indian War, and determined opponent of British aggressions, was ready to fight again for his country. Though he had been captured and cruelly tortured by Indians, he was ready for another war if it were to be fought in the name of liberty. He left for Boston immediately after the news was carried from Bissell.

On went the tireless courier, arriving in Norwich, Conn., at 4 P. M. He pushed on to New London, arriving at 7 o'clock. There he dismounted and ate a meal while the committee copied the message and then, on a fresh horse, pressed on again, passing Lyme at 1 A. M., Saybrook at 4, Killingworth at 7, East Guilford at 8, Guilford at 10 and Branford at noon. From Branford the militia company left at once for Lexington. Bissell rode into New Haven early in the afternoon of the third day.

At New Haven Bissell paused to rest as Captain Benedict Arnold of the Governor's Guard called his counsel together on the green and proposed to lead them to Boston at once. When the Selectmen refused to furnish the company with ammunition Arnold threatened to break

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APRIL 19, 1917.

BISSELL RODE 350 MILES IN 4 DAYS TO AROUSE PATRIOTS

In 1774 the committee of correspondence representing the colonies found it most difficult to communicate with one another "owing to their letters being lost through carelessness of the government post riders." Not infrequently they were obliged to send their letters by "friends of the cause" whom they could trust.

April 19, 1775. It became necessary to "alarm" the colonies of the battle then being fought at Lexington and Concord. The post roads were being closely guarded by the English and their tory friends. The committee's messengers were often beaten and forced to turn back, their letters being seized. It was important that a fearless man should be chosen for this dangerous duty.

The Message He Carried

Israel Bissell was the man selected. He was a fast and fearless rider, whose home was in East Windsor. On the morning of the 19th he was intrusted with the following message: "Yesterday morning we had reports in this city from Rhode Island and New London that an action had happened between the king's troops and the inhabitants of Boston, which was not credited, but about 12 o'clock an express arrived with the following account, viz: Watertown, Wednesday morning, near 10 o'clock. To all friends of American liberty, let it be known: That this morning before break of day a brigade, consisting of about 1,000 or 1,200 men, landed at Phip's farm at Cambridge and marched to Lexington, where they found a company of our colony militia in arms, upon whom they fired without any provocation, and killed six men and wounded four others.

"By an express from Boston we find another brigade are upon their march from Boston, supposed to be about 1,000. The bearer, Israel Bissell, is charged to alarm the country quite to Connecticut, and all persons are desired to furnish him with fresh horses as they may be needed.

"I have spoken with several who have seen the dead and wounded. Pray let the delegates from this colony to Connecticut see this. They know Col. Foster, of Brookfield, one of our delegates."

Route He Followed.

This message was signed by T. Palmer, one of the committee. Bissell started with the message from Watertown, Mass., and took the following route: Worcester, Mass.; Brookline, New London, Lyme, Saybrook, Killingworth, East Guilford, Guilford, Branford, New Haven, New York, New Brunswick, Princeton, Trenton and arrived in Philadelphia four days after the start. This seems like a remarkable time to cover a distance of more than 300 miles, and when the rough country and poor roads are to be taken into consideration it was a wonderful achievement.

The express was continued on as far as Charleston, S. C., but not by Bissell. He turned over the appeal of the patriots to another rider, and after remaining in Philadelphia two days returned to his starting point. At each town the time of his arrival was indorsed by one or more of the members of the committee. At many places it was copied. This must have caused some delay.

First Horse Dropped Dead.

The time taken by the stage coaches from Boston to Philadelphia at that period was six days. Bissell made it in about four, the distance being about 350 miles. From the following an idea of how he rode may be obtained:

"Bissell left Watertown near 10 o'clock in the morning, and by noon he had already covered the distance to Worcester, close to 36 miles. As he passed through the country the rider shouted, 'To arms, to arms!' and leaving his good horse, which dropped dead before the meeting house in Worcester, the tireless courier, with a fresh mount, bore the message on up among the hills in the direction of Brookline."

With all the good roads that the rider would encounter today between Philadelphia and Boston it would take the endurance of a horseman, as well as the best mounts he could obtain, to ride from Boston from 10 o'clock on one morning and reach Philadelphia at 5 p. m. four days later, yet this is what Bissell did, and history credits him with being the best of the rough riders of the Revolution.

CALL TO ARMS
Major James Gordon, Voluntown, April 20, 1775.

A

Sr. This moment Rec^d. orders from the Co^l. to order you
ameadetly to Call your Company to Geather and order them
to bring all the arms and aminision they have So as those
that Shall Go May be furnish^d - to meet at my house to
Morrer Morning by Sun Rise if possible. There is a
post Sent from Boston with a letter in these words
Wedensday Morning Near 10 oClock - to all the friends
of American Liberty, be it known this morning before
Brake of Day a Brigade Consisting of about 1000 or 1200
men Landed at Phipps farm in Cambridge and March^d to
Lexington where they found a Company of Colony Militia in
arms upon which they Fired and kild Six men & wounded four
of them. By an Express this Moment from Boston we find
another Brigade are Now on there March from Boston
Supposed to be about 1000. The barer Mr. Israel Bissel is
Cha rg^d to alarm the Country as far as Connecticut and all
persons are Desir^d to Furnish him with fresh horses as
they may be Nead I have Spoke with Sevrar persons that have
Seen the Dead & wounded - &c. --- & I Palmer one
of the Comt^{ee} of Safty
you will Comply in Watertown
with if shown order.

Voluntown Apr 20th- 1775 James Gordon Maj^r-
(On the back of the letter is written

I have sent to Ens. Edmond to sent out Sargnt Edmond to warn
the men and to send word to the Int. &c.

To Capt. John Gordon, Jr. of Voluntown)

(File 31897, Adj. Gen. Office. War Department, Washington, D.C.)

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Headquarters Department of the Tennessee
Near Vicksburg Miss June 24 1863

Extracts

The Resignation of 2^d Lieut J. N. Bissell
Regiment of the West Volunteers, is hereby
accepted to take effect this day

By Order of Major General U. S. Grant
J. M. Rawlins
Assistant Adjutant General

A True Copy
J. M. Smith
Regimental Clerk
J. M. Smith

Chief Mustering and Disbursing Office, Mo. Vol.,

Benton Barracks, Mo., November 12th 1862

I certify that I have this day
mustered into the service of the United States
Joshua W. Bissell as 2^d Lieut. of Compy. C.
Engineer Regiment, Mo. Vol. ranking from
date in compliance with request of A. A. Genl.
of Mo.

W. E. Bornville

Col. U. S. A. &

Chief M & D. Officer

